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First record of *Brachycoris* Stål (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) in India, with description of a new species

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Abstract

The genus *Brachycoris* remained monotypic so far, with *Brachycoris semiflavus* Stål, 1871 from Philippines. In this paper, the genus is redescribed and its distribution expanded with the description of *Brachycoris tralucidus* **sp. nov.**, based on specimens from southern part of India. *B. tralucidus* **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated based on male and female genitalia.

Key words: *Aspideurus* Signoret, *insignis* (Distant), *Menida* Motschulsky, *Saceseurus* Breddin, *semiflavus* Stål, *tralucidus* **sp. nov.**

Introduction

The genus *Brachycoris* Stål of the tribe Menidini was originally described by Stål in 1871 to include *B. semiflavus* from Philippines. Although Stål (1871) also mentioned the species *B. insignis*, the name *B. insignis* was only made available by Distant (1900). Distant (1902) described *B. insignis* along with two varietal forms from Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Later, Bergroth (1908) placed *B. insignis* Distant, 1900 under the genus *Saceseurus* Breddin, 1900. Distant (1901) described *B. thoracicus* from Borneo and Shelford. Later on, Schmidt (1915) synonymized *B. thoracicus* with *Saceseurus bicolor* and Leston (1954) confirmed the synonymy. Presently this genus is monotypic (Rider, 2016), including only *B. semiflavus*. Members of *Brachycoris* are usually externally coloured black and orange yellow with most of the ventral area including legs, orange yellow or pale yellow. They resemble the genera *Saceseurus* Breddin and *Aspideurus* Signoret, 1880 in external appearance. But Leston (1954) mentioned a distinguishing character of *B. semiflavus*; the presence of a prolonged tubercle on the maxillary plate adjacent to the antenniferous tubercle (Fig. 10). This character distinguishes members of *Brachycoris* from the related genera. No host plants are known for this species.

In this paper *Brachycoris* is recorded for the first time from India and a new species is described, *Brachycoris tralucidus* **sp. nov.** from India, based on male and female genitalia.

Material and methods

Observations, dissections and illustrations of male and female genitalia and general morphology were made using the stereozoom microscope, Nikon SMZ 745 (model C-FIR). Two females and one male of the new species were examined for the present work. An attempt to get the type specimens of *B. semiflavus* deposited at Swedish Museum of Natural History (SMNH), Stockholm, Sweden was not successful. But Dr. Gunvi Lindberg, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Zoology, SMNH was kind enough to send the various images of the type specimen along with the label data included in this manuscript. It was also informed that there are only three specimens of *B. semiflavus* (all females) apart from the type specimen, which are from Australia. The type is a female specimen and at present males are unknown for *B. semiflavus*. In this work, other than the images, no specimens of *B. semiflavus* are examined. Photographs and measurements were made using DFC 420 camera mounted on Leica M205A